

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF THORNTON,

COMPRISING THOSE OF THE

Treasurer, Selectmen, Overseer of the Poor,
School Committee, etc., etc.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.

PLYMOUTH, N. H.:

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1881.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of the town of Thornton charge themselves as follows:—

DR.

To cash received on town notes,	\$815 00
“ “ of State Treasurer, Savings Bank	
tax,	60 54
“ “ “ Literary fund,	74 37
“ “ of the County for support of paup-	
ers,	407 92
“ “ of Town Treasurer, deposit of A	
Tender,	35 00
	<hr/> \$1,392 83

CR.

By cash paid Town Treasurer,	\$1,392 83
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TREASURER'S REPORT.

Orders given on the Treasurer for the following sums:—

Paid on town notes,	\$1,335 53
school agent, District No. 1,	120 87
“ “ 2,	66 50
“ “ 4,	92 80
“ “ 5,	38 50
“ “ 6,	95 99
“ “ 7,	47 00
“ “ 8,	51 25
“ “ 9,	69 00
“ “ 11,	80 59
“ “ 12,	45 00
B. M. B. Selingham his school money for 1880,	7 00
“ “ overseer of the poor,	517 71
H. W. Blair for counsel in 1874,	17 00
for selectmen's desk,	13 75
E. P. Cone, agent district No. 2, balance of S.	
H. tax, 1877-8,	153 88
H. N. Clay for care of town house, 1879-80,	9 50
N. K. Russ for work on snow fence,	1 31
H. V. Hart for services as supervisor and money paid out,	19 71
H. V. Hart for plank,	2 43
F. M. Marden for plank and timber,	8 70
A. C. Moulton for plank and work on road,	2 75
Bass & Houghton for printing reports,	18 00
E. G. Guilford for returns of births and deaths,	1 50
D. E. Brown for work on road,	1 92
D. F. Peaslee “ bridge,	2 50
Wm. E. Blake “ road,	11 38
H. and A. Merrill “ “	2 52
Wm. Jones for lumber,	3 00
Hiram Merrill, school-house tax, Dis. No. 7,	5 77
I. H. Wyatt, bounty on two bears,	20 00
H. M. Fifield for work on bridge,	35 00
J. B. Sanborn & Co. for books and blanks,	7 50
M. and D. Foss for plank and lumber,	121 08
J. W. Pattee, services as liquor agent, 1879,	45 00

County tax for the year 1880,	653 21
State tax for the year 1880,	388 00
Agent school district No. 6, part school-house tax,	13 20
A. Darling for work on road,	2 85
John Colby for building bridge,	15 00
A. Lyford for services as auditor and supervisor,	12 75
A. P. Carpenter as counsel,	34 00
Burleigh & Adams “	45 00
James P. Topping, services as school committee,	36 00
Jonathan Moulton for lumber and plank,	42 34
Wm. T. Snow for work on road,	8 39
Philip Hart “ “	2 25
Daniel Peaslee “ “ and plank,	3 24
John Colby “ “	13 45
F. M. Marden for plank,	14 40
J. E. Pattee, services as supervisor,	11 25
Charles Caldon for work on road,	4 15
A. Robie “ “	2 20
building committee, District No. 9, school house tax,	23 16
Lewis H. Loveland for lumber and work,	5 57
Geo. W. Fifield for plank, and services as auditor,	4 65
E. Elliott, services as auditor,	1 50
Charles Shute for plank,	3 51
T. J. Gilman for work on road,	2 20
J. H. Ham, via settlement of road case,	800 00
C. F. Plummer for plank,	15 12
agent District No. 5, part school house tax,	20 55
Lewis Kendrick for plank and work on road,	9 56
Charles P. Sargent, services as town clerk,	20 00
Jeremiah Gilman for labor on highway,	6 25
“ for money paid out for town,	4 33
“ “ “ bounties,	0 80
“ for board of selectmen,	5 00
B. M. B. Selingham for money paid out as overseer,	12 72
B. M. B. Selingham for services as overseer to March 1, 1881,	30 00
Orrin F. James for money paid out for bounties,	2 80
“ “ “ postage	3 48
and paper,	
Orrin F. James for money paid out for doing town business,	32 99

Orrin F. James for work on road and bridges,	15 25
Orrin A. Straw, work on road and plank,	5 79
H. H. Constantine for public water trough, 1878-9-80,	9 00
Orrin F. James for services as selectman to March 1, 1881,	97 25
Jeremiah Gilman, do. do.	81 00
J. P. Mason, do. do.	39 75
J. P. Mason, money paid out,	50
Walter C. Merrill for services as treasurer,	40 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,666 35

TOWN DEBT.

Notes Betsey Page,	\$200 00
C. and B. Shute,	39 00
E. G. Foss,	498 00
Emily Durgin,	102 00
Charles Shute,	197 00
Carter Foss,	1,654 00
J. F. Morrill, guardian,	396 00
C. Tucker,	29 00
Willie Baker,	47 00
Milton Woodbury,	14 00
Barnard Page,	355 00
M. E. Willey,	195 00
L. B. Shute,	162 00
B. B. Hodsdon,	7 00
R. T. Melcher,	61 00
'Rilla C. Sanborn,	161 00
Judith Foss,	513 00
Mahala Foss,	513 00
John Johnson,	79 00
Edmond Cone,	188 00
Lydia Woodbury,	397 00
Sarah J. Woodbury,	106 00
Mary A. Gordon,	54 00
Herod Fifield,	53 00
E. P. Cone,	703 00
B. L. Peaslee,	131 00
C. Durgin,	80 00
A. B. Jackman,	26 00

J. H. Peaslee,	52 00
Lucy A. Elliott,	33 00
A. Lyford,	575 00
Lizzie M. Woodbury,	5 00
Emma F. Wood,	10 00
Emma F. Marden,	50 00
C. A. Selingham,	25 00

\$7,710 00

Bonds payable Jan. 1, 1889,	\$10,000 00
Interest on same,	83 33
Bonds payable Jan. 1, 1894,	10,000 00
Interest on same,	83 33
Bonds payable Jan. 1, 1899,	1,175 00
Interest on same,	9 79

\$21,351 45

Coupons due Jan. 1, 1880, not paid,	\$23 75
“ “ 1881, “	40 00

\$63 75

ASSETS.

Collection list, 1877-8,	\$100 00
“ 1879,	65 00
“ 1880,	3,200 00
“ 1868,	30 00
Due from State for bounties,	30 20
“ county for support of paupers,	26 92
In overseer's hands,	38 63
Profits in liquor agent's hands, 1880,	123 00
In Treasurer's hands, March 1, 1881,	553 77

\$4,167 52

Amount of town debt,	\$29,125 20
Assets,	<u>4,167 52</u>
Amount of debt, less assets,	23,957 68

Statement of Taylor Fund in the town of Thornton,	1,045 67
School fund, town of Thornton,	1,312 50

ORRIN F. JAMES,
JEREMIAH GILMAN,
JONATHAN P. MASON,

Selectmen of Thornton.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEER OF THE POOR.

Money received of the town of Thornton per order
from the selectmen on treasurer, \$517 71

PAID FOR COUNTY PAUPERS.

George R. Tucker,	\$28 00
Benjamin Tucker,	41 91
Eugene Hart,	62 50
Phineas McDermitt,	10 00
S. D. Fadden,	162 00
Mary F. Whitney,	32 50
Jacob Benton, part old bill,	42 36
John Tucker,	34 98
Wooster Foss,	34 09
Transient,	7 00
	<hr/>
	\$455 34

PAID FOR TOWN PAUPERS.

Mrs. Joshua Merrill and family,	\$23 74
Money in hands of overseer of poor,	\$38 63

B. M. B. SELINGHAM,

Overseer of the Poor.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

From March 1, 1880, to March 1, 1881.

DR.

In treasury, March 1, 1880,	\$558 36
Received of selectmen,	1,392 83
" M. B. Cone, collector, school house tax,	
District No. 2, for the year 1877-8,	142 18
Received of M. B. Cone, collector, for 1877,	101 35
" " " 1867,	6 22
" " " 1878,	144 00
" Ephraim Elliott, collector for 1879,	2,376 43
" " " 1880,	2,420 00
" J. W. Pattee, liquor agent,	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,241 37

CR.

Money paid out by order of selectmen,	\$5,666 35
" on coupons for 1880,	2 50
" " " 1881,	1,018 75
	<hr/>
	\$6,687 60

Total amount received,	\$7,241 37
" paid out,	6,687 60
	<hr/>
Money in treasury, March 1, 1881,	\$553 77

As the preceding report will specify the items for the orders given on the treasurer, it is not expedient for them to be given in this report, as the orders are all on file in the treasurer's office to which any reference may be made.

WALTER C. MERRILL.

Treasurer.

Having examined the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer and overseer of the poor of the town of Thornton for the year ending March 1, 1881, we find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

ALBERT LYFORD,
GEORGE W. FIFIELD,
EPHRAIM ELLIOTT.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen of the Town of Thornton:

GENTLEMEN,—In compliance with duty as Superintending School Committee, I submit the following Report:

DISTRICT No. 1.

Prudential Committee, WILLIAM MERRILL.

First term, taught by Miss Mary F. Elliott, of Rumney. Length of school, eight weeks. Whole number of scholars, twenty six; average attendance, twenty-three and thirteen twentieths. Roll of honor—Fred James, Melvina James, Mary Smith, Anna Abbott, Frances Smith, Minnie James, Linnie James, Bertha James.

The scholars that attended regularly through the term made commendably fast and thorough progress in their studies. School well governed, and an easy school to govern. Good order was maintained. Miss Elliott is an excellent teacher, and was perfectly at home in the school room.

Second term, taught by Mr. J. F. Morrill, of Campton. Length of school, eleven weeks. Whole number of scholars, twenty-nine; average attendance, twenty-three. Roll of honor—Melvina James, Minnie James, Linnie James, Bertha James, Fred James.

Judging from the not rapid but thorough advancement made, and the apparent good order, I have no hesitancy in pronouncing it a first-class school. I heartily endorse Mr. Morrill's manner of managing this school. The house being unfit for a winter school, the order for the last two or three weeks was necessarily disorder, made by crowding around the stove.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Prudential Committee, CHARLES ELLIOTT.

* Three terms. First and second terms taught by Miss Lavinia Melvin, of West Plymouth. Length of first term, eleven weeks; second term, eight weeks. Whole number of scholars, first term, twenty-two, with an average attendance of seventeen and twelve fifty-fifths. Whole number of scholars, second term, twenty-six, with an average attendance of seventeen and three-eighths.

Miss Melvin labored hard, and with good success, to make this a profitable school. Having examined her schools four times, I pronounce her a hard worker and successful teacher. Those pupils who attended regularly, made satisfactory progress. Lessons were well committed by the scholars, and well and thoroughly explained by the teacher.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Prudential Committee, THOMAS CILLEY.

First term, taught by Mrs. Angie B. S. Worthen. Length of school, eight weeks. Whole number of scholars, thirteen; average attendance, not given. Roll of honor—Addie M. Blake, Mary A. Carter, Susie M. Sargent, Henry P. Cilley, Fred E. Cilley, Arthur B. Sprague.

Mrs. Worthen is a teacher of ability, by virtue of natural tact and years of experience, and we hoped she would be retained for the second term, but we lost nothing by the change, however. Order and improvement, good.

Second term, taught by Miss Nellie J. Bowler, of Lake Village. Length of school, twelve weeks. Whole number of scholars, fifteen; average attendance, twelve and twenty-one

* Third term not closed. Taught by J. F. Morrill, of Campton.

twenty-fifths. Roll of honor—Mary A. Carter, Nellie A. Sargent, Susie M. Sargent, Charles E. Sargent, Henry P. Cilley.

This was Miss Bowler's first term, and it was a decided success. Prompt, full of life, an energetic hard-worker in the school room, is not saying too much by way of recommendation of this young teacher. We suggest, however, that she work some less, and let her pupils work more and harder. Improvement good in the main. Good order.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Prudential Committee, CHARLES WEEKS.

One term, taught by Miss Nellie P. Bryant, of Woodstock. Length of term, seven weeks. Whole number of scholars, eighteen; average attendance, seventeen.

With next to no chance in point of time, Miss Bryant commenced her almost perfect manner of work, and taught a remarkable term of school, advancing the pupils far beyond my expectations. She had one thing in her favor, that is the large average attendance. Miss Bryant is a model teacher; experience has ripened her for the work; but she is not in need of a recommendation, her name answers that wherever she has taught.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Prudential Committee, GEORGE F. FIFIELD.

Two term, both terms taught by Miss Ardelle W. Chase, of Plymouth. Length of first term, eight weeks; length of second term, nine weeks. Whole number of scholars first term, fourteen, with an average attendance of eleven; whole number of scholars during second term, twenty, with an average attendance of eighteen. Roll of honor for the first term—Amy L. Hackett, Georgie L. Hackett, Emma E. Tourtillott, Nellie M. Tourtillott. Roll of honor for second term—Ada J. Gilman, Amy L. Hackett, Roxanna Jones, Emma L. Tourtillott, Nellie M. Tourtillott, Orissa M. Lyford, Charles F. Fifield, Milan J. Gilman, Albert D. Lyford, Henry D. Lyford, Wilson K. Pattee.

Department of the scholars, beautiful. Good and thorough progress made. Miss Chase is a natural teacher, so she readily interests her pupils in all things of the school room. We call

especial attention to the fact that she took great pains to teach her pupils manners—deportment. The order in her school room was like a soldier's drill or a dress parade.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Prudential Committee, HIRAM MERRILL.

One term, taught by Miss Sarah A. Whitney, of Thornton. Length of term, ten weeks. Whole number of scholars, seventeen; average attendance, twelve. Roll of honor—Luella Bagley.

I can say but little of this school. I was notified by the teacher to attend its closing; I attended as notified, and the school had closed the week before—the teacher has since written me that there was some improvement made. The school appeared to be doing well on my first two visits.

DISTRICT No. 8.

Prudential Committee, GEORGE ELLIOTT.

First term, taught by Miss Etta Foster, of Wentworth. Length of term, six weeks. Whole number of scholars, nine; average attendance, seven and two-thirds. Roll of honor—Herbert A. Broad.

The teacher seemed to lack energy and government, and your Committee could see but very little, if any, improvement; but I take into consideration that she had a poor chance. Her term was short, and the roll shows many days of absence on the part of the scholars.

Second term, taught by Miss Mabel E. Smith, of Moultonborough. Length of term, ten weeks. Whole number of scholars, fifteen; average attendance, eleven and thirty-eight fifty-thirds, which is an average that would hinder the best of teachers.

We can say but very little of this school, on account of there being so few present when we made our last visit. Miss Smith might make an excellent teacher if she would cultivate and get up a little more stir.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Prudential Committee, FREEMAN WOODBURY.

One term, taught by Miss Dora E. Lee, of Laconia. Length of term, thirteen weeks. Whole number of scholars, twenty; average attendance, thirteen.

This shows an average of sixty-five per cent. It's a wonder that a teacher could do anything. In view of some circumstances, I visited this school three times. I found good order, and diligent and progressive students. The pupils present seemed to highly respect their teacher, and were interested in their studies. The average attendance was much in the way of success.

DISTRICT No. 11.

Prudential Committee, MRS. J. W. PATTEE.

One term, taught by Miss May A. Gordon, of Thornton. Length of term, nine weeks. Whole number of scholars, eleven; average attendance, eight and eleven forty-sixths. Roll of honor—Joseph Brown. Average poor, a little less than seventy-five per cent.

I can say but very little of this school, as I received no hint of its closing until the afternoon it closed, but the fact that Miss Gordon was the teacher is a sufficient reason to pronounce the school a good one.

DISTRICT No. 12.

Prudential Committee, GEORGE H. BROWN.

One term, taught by Miss Vina C. Boynton, of Holderness. Length of term, ten weeks. Whole number of scholars, seventeen; average attendance, thirteen. Roll of honor—Cyrus H. Brown.

The scholars seemed interested in their studies, and to respect their teacher. I pronounce this a very good school; good order; fair improvement. The average attendance was against the teacher's more perfect success.

REMARKS.

The annual school meeting is the place to commence a good school, from the fact that an interest in the school meeting, on the part of the residents of the district, is a sure indication of an interest in the following schools, but, in many instances, it is like this: School meetings are thinly attended, unless some public-spirited inhabitant proposes to raise some money for building, repairs, or some other necessity, then, all will turn out, and generally the turn-out is to oppose the money-raising, when the interest should be, not to keep the money in the wallet, but to lavishly expend it for the benefit of the rising generation.

Committees, teachers, and the inhabitants of the district generally, should understand that the main purpose of the school is to prepare the pupils for moral, social, and intellectual work in the near future; consequently, they should be taught, in connection with the lessons in their text-books, the importance of going out into the world with a healthy body, and with moral and social accomplishments.

A person that lacks force should never be engaged to teach school, however many their accomplishments in other directions, from the fact that lack of force will more or less neutralize all else.

Teachers should be bundles of instruction, thoroughly imbued with what they are to teach, and continually increase their power by being untiring students, and, in the school room, should be inspirers, developers and directors.

We cannot too forcibly impress upon teachers the Divine injunction, "precept upon precept," that is, that in the school room every principle should become a part of the pupil's self, before proceeding to another.

We would impress teachers with the idea of letting scholars solve all problems in mathematics for themselves, as far as it is possible for them so to do, thereby throwing them back, or more properly forward, on their own self-reliance and self-helpfulness. When Napoleon Bonaparte was in the military school at Brunne, a student young in years, he worked seventy-two hours on an abstruse problem; the result, he solved it, and it was worth more to him than one hundred problems solved by others.

I deplore the fact of the unequal amount of schooling, believing that some way should be devised to give every scholar an equal chance; I also deplore the lack of necessary apparatus.

Next to the religious, let us work for the intellectual salvation of our children, from the debasing thralldom of ignorance, remembering that we owe all we are to the Spirit that builds the temple of religion, and the temple of instruction.

We close by invoking the Divine blessing upon all, especially upon the youth of the town.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES P. TOPPING,

S. S. Committee.

Thornton, February 24, 1881.

W. C. SHERMAN,

*(Late of Ashland, and for three years in charge of Richard
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